GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1278
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
SHORTAGE OF ANTI-DIPTHERIA SERUM
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current policy of not allowing the manufacture of the anti-diptheria serum vaccine from horse has made vaccine scare in the market ;

(b) if so, the action taken/ being taken by the Government to evolve the policy so as to manufacture the vaccine indigenously ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): The Anti-Diptheria Serum (ADS) is manufactured indigenously. The Committee for Prevention, Control and Supervision of Experimentation on Animals (CPCSEA) has prescribed guidelines for use of equines in the production of vaccines/sera as a result of which the availability of equines meeting the requirement of the guidelines went down. This has led to certain shortage of production of ADS. The guidelines are being revised by a committee set up by the ministry of Environment & Forests. The Directorate General of Health Services has, however, for the time being facilitated the procurement of ADS through WHO to meet the shortage.